

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0015] on page 9 as follows:

[0015]

The basic concept of the present invention is described first below before describing the preferred embodiments of the invention.

Fig. 1 shows the ~~AC-commercial~~ power supply voltage signal V_m , step-up signal V_a which is the power supply voltage boosted by a step-up coil, lamp signal L denoting the on/off state of the discharge lamp, and transmission path fluctuation periods T_{v1} and T_{v2} . Note that a discharge lamp as used herein includes fluorescent lamps and other types of discharge lamps that operate using power supplied from an AC power source, as well as other electrical devices that operate synchronized to an AC power source.